Please replace the section on page 8 which begins with "Example 6"with the following:

EXAMPLE 6

Luciferase Production in VEGF-Receptor Cell Line at 24 and 48 Hours After the Addition of VEGF

Cells were prepared as described above. $VEGF_{121}$ was added to cells (50 K well) 24 hours after seeding. $VEGF_{121}$ was added to the cells at concentrations of either 25 or 50 ng/mL. Luciferase expression was measured 24 hours after the addition of $VEGF_{121}$ and 48 hours after the addition of $VEGF_{121}$. The results are shown in Figure 6. Maximum luciferase expression was found in the cells treated with 50 ng/mL of $VEGF_{121}$ at 24 hours post-$VEGF_{121}$ introduction.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 13, 26, 27, 28, and 41.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for determining vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) activity in a sample, said method comprising the steps of:

a) Contacting a sample to be assayed for VEGF activity with a stable HeLa cell line wherein the stable HeLa cell line comprises;

1) a reporter vector having; an expressible reporter element and a DNA binding site disposed adjacent thereto and,

2) a chimeric transactivator vector comprising a gene encoding a phosphorylatable protein and a DNA binding domain which specifically binds to the DNA binding site, and

3) an expression vector encoding a gene for a VEGF receptor; and

b) detecting expression of the reporter element, wherein expression of the reporter element indicates VEGF activity.

7. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the phosphorylatable protein encoded by the chimeric transactivator vector can be phosphorylated by MAPK.

8. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the phosphorylatable protein is ELK-1.

9. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the gene encoding for the phosphorylatable protein is operably linked to a promoter element.

14. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said contacting step further comprises binding VEGF present in the sample with the expressed VEGF receptor.

15. (Amended) A method according to Claim 14, wherein said contacting the sample step further comprises activating MAPK with the expressed VEGF receptor.

21. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the sample comprises cells, tissue, tissue extracts, or combinations thereof.

22. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the VEGF activity is detectable at a VEGF concentration of >1 mg/mL.

23. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the VEGF activity is detectable at a VEGF concentration range between approximately 1 ng/mL to approximately 200 ng/mL.

24. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of incubating the sample with the stable HeLa cell line for a period of time ranging from approximately 4 hours to approximately 24 hours.

25. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of incubating the sample with the stable HeLa cell line for a period of time ranging from approximately 10 hours to approximately 20 hours.

29. (Amended) A method for determining whether a candidate compound modulates VEGF activity, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a cell expressing VEGF;

(b) contacting the VEGF produced by the cell with a candidate compound;

(c) contacting the resulting combination of (a) and (b) with a stable HeLa cell line wherein the stable HeLa cell line comprises;

1) a reporter vector having an expressible reporter element and a DNA binding site disposed adjacent thereto; and

2) a chimeric transactivator vector comprising a gene encoding a phosphorylatable protein and a DNA binding domain which specifically binds to the DNA binding site; and

3) an expression vector encoding a gene for a VEGF receptor; and

(d) detecting expression of the reporter element, wherein expression of the reporter element indicates VEGF activity;

further wherein altered VEGF activity relative to a cell not contacted with the candidate compound indicates that the candidate compound modulates VEGF activity.

30. (Amended) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the reporter vector further comprises a GAL4 binding element.

31. (Amended) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the reporter vector comprises a gene encoding for a detectable product.

35. (Amended) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the phosphorylatable protein encoded by the chimeric transactivator vector can be phophorylated by MAPK.

37. (Amended) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the gene encoding for the phosphorylatable protein is operably linked to a promoter element.